

XI. *Descriptions of a new genus, and of two new species of Longicorn Coleoptera.* By H. W. BATES, F.Z.S., &c.

[Read 1st May, 1871.]

Genus *BOLBOTRITUS*, nov. gen.

(Sub.-fam. *Cerambycineæ veræ.*)

*Mas.* Corpus cylindricum, robustum. Caput crassum pone oculos haud constrictum. Antennæ breves, humeros elytrorum paulo superantes; articulo tertio maxime ampliato, ovato, crasso, paulo compresso; 4to lato in apice articulo tertii incluso; articulis 5-7 brevibus ovatis; 8-11 linearibus lateribus sulcatis, ultimo longiori acuminato. Thorax transversim quadratus, inermis. Elytra parallelogrammica apice rotundata. Pedes breves robusti; tibiæ compressæ; tarsi breves, articulo 3io lobis brevibus, angustis, 4to cæteris conjunctis paululum breviori crasso. Prosternum arcuatum, mesosternum simplex; acetabula antica extus longe angulata. Abdomen postice vix angustatum, segmentis singulis convexis, ultimo latissimo et brevissimo.

*Bolbotritus Bainesi*, n. sp.

Fusco-castaneus, capite et thorace obscurioribus, creberrime punctulatis et rugulosis; antennis articulis basali obscuriori rugoso, tertio punctulato, cæteris nitidis; elytris subtiliter coriaceis nitidis, leviter bicostatis; pectore et abdomine punctulatis.

Long. 2 unc.

*Hab.*—Ad ripas fluminis Mungwe in terris Matabiliorum, Africae Australis, in lat. 20°, 45'; A viatore insigne Thom. Baines capto.

This singular species belongs, without doubt, to section A of Lacordaire's Group *Cerambycides vrais*, and to division I. of the same section; the lower lobe of the eyes not advancing beyond the antenniferous tubercles. The extreme shortness of the antennæ makes it an exception to the general character of the group, but it is clear that

their form is only an exaggeration, or an extreme development, of the well-known structure, common in the males of the group, in which the third to fifth joints are more or less swollen. In *Bolbotritus* the bulbous enlargement of the third joint is enormous, encasing in its apex the enlarged third joint, and even to some extent, also the fifth, which appears only as a prominent tubercle at the end of the bulb; and this excessive enlargement appears to have been obtained at the expense of the remaining joints of the antennæ, which are extraordinarily shortened. The insect is interesting, as an illustration of the tendency so wonderfully displayed by the Longicornia to extreme developments of any variable feature, in species otherwise closely allied. This tendency is carried sometimes to such a length, that the affinities of the modified forms are no longer recognizable, and hence the unusual difficulties often complained of as attendant on their classification.

*Mallaspis præcellens*, n. sp.

*M. Beltii* affinis, multo angustior et gracilior. Læte ænea, nitida; capite aurato valde elongato grosse haud profunde subrugoso-punctato, supra late sulcato; antennis corpore vix brevioribus, articulis basalibus auratis, 6-7 violaceis, reliquis nigris, omnino linearibus, punctatis, 3-4 paulo latioribus subplanatis, 6-7 breviter sparsim denticulatis; thorace quam in *M. Beltii* multo angustiori, spina mediana valida, antice et postice æqualiter angustato, supra discrete passim punctato; scutello læte aureosericeo; elytris elongatis postice paulo angustatis, supra basin ad paulo convexis creberrime subtiliter ruguloso-punctatis, basi multo lævioribus nitidis; pedibus elongatis, æneo-auratis, tarsi violaceis; femoribus anticis grosse granulatis; corpore subtus cupreo-æneo splendido.

Long. 1 unc. 8 lin.; lat. pone humeros 6 lin. ♂.

*Hab.*—Chiriqui, near Panamá.

Two specimens in the British Museum, and one in my own collection. The species is very distinct from all hitherto known. The rich intense metallic hues of its antennæ and legs, at once distinguish it from all others having linear antennal joints.